

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2005

Domestic primary aluminum production in December was 207,676 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,699 t, about 2% lower than that of the previous month and the rate for December 2004. Total primary metal production for 2005 was 2,480,999 t, about 1% lower than the reported production of 2,516,362 t in 2004. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.061 per pound in December from 96.31 cents per pound in November, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) also increased during December. The price range began the month at 66–68 cents per pound and on December 6, it increased to 70–72 cents per pound. On December 13, the price range increased

again to 74–76 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the year.

### Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased in January 2006 to \$1.118 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs rose steadily throughout January. On January 4, the price range increased to 76–78 cents per pound; on January 11, it increased to 78–80 cents per pound; on January 18, it increased to 82–84 cents per pound; on January 24, it increased to 84–86 cents per pound; and on January 31, the price range reached 87–88 cents per pound.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Total stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2004	2,516	1,870	1,160	3,030	3,250	938	4,180	9,730	1,470
2004:									
December	211	138	94	231	294	82	377	819	1,470
2005:									
January	209	163	95	258	334	90	425	892	1,510
February	191	157	91	248	289	97	386	825	1,450
March	214	171	96	267	262	105	367	847	1,480
April	211	162	95	257	372	104	476	943	1,500
May	214	159	98	257	372	104	476	947	1,520
June	206	153	96	249	324	107	431	886	1,500
July	210	170	96	267	324	104	428	904	1,550
August	208	167	96	262	264	110	374	845	1,510
September	199	157	91	248	282	97	379	827	1,590
October	207	151	95	246	298	94	393	846	1,550
November	204	151	84	236	240	91	330	770	1,440
December	208	143	82	225	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-December	2,481	1,900	1,120	3,020	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2  
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM  
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
2004	1,800	1,330	754	668	994	929	101	90	9	8	3,650	3,030
2004:												
December	132	97	61	54	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	279	231
2005:												
January	147	106	64	57	93	87	9	8	(2)	(2)	313	258
February	146	105	63	56	84	79	8	7	1	1	301	248
March	150	108	67	60	97	91	8	7	1	1	323	267
April	146	106	66	59	90	84	8	7	1	1	311	257
May	151	109	69	61	85	80	8	7	1	1	313	257
June	138	103	67	60	84	79	9	8	1	1	299	249
July	141	102	92	83	79	74	8	7	1	1	321	267
August	151	109	77	69	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	319	262
September	148	107	65	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	248
October	154	112	55	49	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	246
November	138	101	62	55	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	285	236
December	129	93	63	56	74	69	8	7	(2)	(2)	274	225
January-December	1,740	1,260	810	723	1,010	945	98	86	6	6	3,660	3,020

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN DECEMBER 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	107,000	129,000	77,400	92,900
Integrated aluminum companies	62,700	62,700	55,900	55,900
Independent mill fabricators	61,400	73,600	57,300	68,800
Foundries	6,640	7,970	5,840	7,010
Other consumers	355	426	355	426
Total	238,000	274,000	197,000	225,000

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4  
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN DECEMBER 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	December				January-December <sup>2</sup>	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	23,600	61,800	60,000	25,500	747,000	749,000
Can stock clippings	1,030	16,700	16,700	1,040	289,000	291,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	7,810	25,700	25,800	7,720	288,000	290,000
Casting	1,420	5,950	5,620	1,740	96,100	95,600
Borings and turnings	7,740	10,800	10,500	8,050	157,000	153,000
Dross and skimmings	4,370	34,400	34,400	4,380	448,000	447,000
Total new scrap	46,000	155,000	153,000	48,400	2,030,000	2,030,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,430	13,700	13,300	5,810	145,000	143,000
Used Extrusion	137	295	295	137	3,540	3,540
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,740	54,700	55,400	1,100	726,000	730,000
Other wrought products	4,080	6,510	6,510	4,080	148,000	148,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,840	10,300	9,260	3,840	130,000	129,000
Total old scrap	14,200	85,500	84,800	15,000	1,150,000	1,150,000
Sweated pig	316	703	729	290	8,740	9,050
Total all classes	60,500	242,000	238,000	63,700	3,190,000	3,190,000

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes revised data from previous month(s).

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2005<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	December				January-December <sup>3</sup>	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	5,270	1,620	1,440	5,450	19,300	16,800
380 and variations	2,340	13,700	12,200	3,880	197,000	197,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,020	1,810	1,810	1010	22,200	22,300
No. 319 and variations	3,030	3,000	3,450	2,570	75,000	74,900
F-132 alloy and variations	872	1,560	1,530	900	22,200	22,100
Al-Zn alloys	98	168	169	97	1,970	2,010
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	46	46	39	550	550
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	45	325	325	45	3,900	3,900
Other <sup>4</sup>	5,110	3,580	4,090	4,600	68,000	69,800
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,300	22,600	22,900	10,100	292,000	293,000
Total all alloys	28,100	48,500	47,900	28,700	702,000	703,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	11,300	XX	XX	146,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,860	XX	XX	26,500	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	552	XX	XX	7,990	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	34,700	XX	XX	521,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Includes revised data from previous months.

<sup>4</sup>Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

<sup>5</sup>No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November
Argentina	2,110	61,600	6	2,980	--	--	2,110	64,500
Australia	5,580	61,600	21	127	72	1,290	5,670	63,000
Bahrain	3,590	18,200	1,550	14,500	--	--	5,140	32,700
Belgium	--	18	839	12,100	--	28	839	12,200
Brazil	21,100	168,000	1,810	32,500	--	126	22,900	200,000
Canada	146,000	1,750,000	42,700	477,000	28,300	286,000	217,000	2,520,000
China	3,030	65,700	8,990	111,000	--	247	12,000	177,000
France	11	720	390	6,040	--	55	401	6,810
Germany	146	2,060	9,190	104,000	51	325	9,390	106,000
Hungary	--	--	537	4,250	--	--	537	4,250
Italy	--	610	149	2,540	--	--	149	3,150
Japan	(2)	515	1,690	18,500	39	484	1,720	19,500
Korea, Republic of	(2)	82	210	2,630	--	--	211	2,710
Mexico	--	--	1,900	20,600	7,470	97,500	9,370	118,000
Netherlands	18	386	118	2,480	--	--	136	2,860
Norway	1	4,060	4	110	--	2	4	4,170
Russia	36,900	757,000	2,580	51,700	175	6,770	39,700	815,000
South Africa	4,010	73,700	4,320	47,200	--	--	8,340	121,000
Spain	19	63	139	2,980	--	106	158	3,150
Sweden	--	1,310	434	3,550	--	--	434	4,860
Switzerland	--	720	505	4,070	--	--	505	4,790
Tajikistan	--	127,000	--	--	--	--	--	127,000
United Arab Emirates	6,770	68,100	211	576	--	718	6,980	69,300
United Kingdom	287	22,600	763	7,080	294	2,070	1,340	31,700
Venezuela	6,230	130,000	1,210	10,900	316	8,640	7,750	149,000
Other	3,700	44,900	10,300	164,000	2,930	41,800	16,900	250,000
Total	240,000	3,360,000	90,500	1,100,000	39,700	447,000	370,000	4,910,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November
Australia	37	493	111	1,430	--	23	148	1,950
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Belgium	21	623	570	7,380	9	223	600	8,220
Brazil	--	205	485	7,610	--	1,500	485	9,310
Canada	12,100	119,000	40,300	454,000	11,500	136,000	64,000	709,000
China	41	442	4,820	38,700	59,500	526,000	64,300	565,000
Czech Republic	--	--	25	267	--	--	25	267
Dominican Republic	--	15	86	519	--	--	86	534
France	--	838	921	8,180	--	48	921	9,070
Germany	84	831	527	7,600	1	306	612	8,740
Hong Kong	--	211	846	6,790	821	9,670	1,670	16,700
India	12	181	61	535	431	8,490	504	9,210
Israel	113	662	213	2,580	--	--	326	3,240
Italy	(2)	175	327	2,900	--	--	328	3,080
Japan	256	4,160	1,060	9,510	3,160	30,900	4,470	44,600
Korea, Republic of	112	971	846	11,800	13,700	121,000	14,700	134,000
Malaysia	--	32	108	5,740	533	1,310	641	7,090
Mexico	15,900	170,000	21,500	211,000	7,610	65,900	45,000	446,000
Netherlands	8	121	43	629	--	39	50	788
Russia	--	154	16	60	--	26	16	240
Saudi Arabia	--	8	3,350	28,600	--	--	3,350	28,600
Singapore	2	343	108	2,080	86	639	196	3,060
Spain	10	76	203	1,230	--	196	213	1,510
Sweden	(2)	9	5	358	--	--	5	368
Taiwan	10	320	517	8,530	2,970	45,100	3,500	53,900
Thailand	23	383	564	7,010	234	5,170	822	12,600
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	13	288	1,890	15,700	115	429	2,020	16,400
Venezuela	--	12	160	1,730	--	21	160	1,760
Other	881	4,610	4,170	35,200	3,340	35,700	8,400	75,400
Total	29,600	305,000	83,900	878,000	104,000	988,000	218,000	2,170,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.